

MAINLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

1301 Oak Avenue Linwood, New Jersey 08221-1698 www.mainlandregional.net Phone (609) 927-4151 Fax (609) 927-1942



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Mark C. Marrone Chief School Administrator

Kim Robinson **Business Administrator**

Press Release

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For more information contact: Mark Marrone, Chief School Administrator mmarrone@mainlandegional.net

During its regular meeting on January 22, 2019, the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education and District Administration agreed to enact a plan to ensure that educational and extracurricular activities and college and career planning needs of Mainland Regional High School students of families that are federal employees or federal contractors will not be impacted by the furlough.

Information is being provided to all students and their families about this plan, which will permit deferral of payments for school lunches and snacks, school (field) trips, testing fees (such as AP, SAT, etc.), college applications, and sports/club participation during the furlough. In addition, Mainland administration is updating its Economic Tool Kit to ensure that all students, including those impacted by the furlough, have easy access to available resources to further their education at Mainland and beyond. Mainland first created this unique toolkit in 2014 in response to the casino closings that affected the families of over 350 Mainland students.

Families of students impacted by the furlough will have the opportunity to defer the payment of any fees and costs advanced by Mainland until two months after the furlough ends. Special arrangements may be made for additional repayment terms and/or grants as requested.

Jill Ojserkis, Esq., President of the Board of Education, stated: "No family should have to make the decision whether to feed those at home or to permit their child to take the SAT, attend a field trip with their classmates or cheer on our teams at a school sporting event."

Mark Marrone, Chief School Administrator, stated: "When we reiterated our commitment to all of our students, including those impacted by the furlough, during our Board meeting, we were gratified by the support provided by our partners at the Mainland Regional Education Association as well as personal contributions made by members of our staff. We are also fortunate to have the resources of the Previti Fund, created by the Mainland Regional Education Foundation in honor of former Superintendent Robert Previti, which was established with the mission of helping our students who are impacted by situations such as the furlough. We have no doubt that if this furlough continues, our community will step up to assist Mainland and other area students to ensure they have the full educational experience that they need and deserve."

About Mainland Regional High School: Mainland Regional High School is a comprehensive, four-year high school serving students in Linwood, Northfield and Somers Point, New Jersey, as well as surrounding municipalities through the choice program. Mainland is recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education and was recognized by the State of New Jersey Department of Education in 2017 as a Lighthouse District because of its visionary instructional leaders, dedicated educators and supportive board members working together on behalf of students. Mainland's programs are designed it support all students, whether they wish to enter the workforce or continue their education upon graduation.